not even to the family, the basic requirement of medicines for him, and then, education for himself and his children, the house rent, electricity, etc. What should, therefore, be the total consumption? Is it calorie alone? ...*(Interruptions)*... Is it calorie alone?

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there can be, I think, many measures of poverty. I am not saying that this is the only measure of poverty, but this has been a measure which has been certified by an expert committee under Prof. D.T. Lakadwala. Further, refinements are possible, and Dr. Suresh Tendulkar Committee is looking into this matter.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I would like to ask of the Prime Minister, through you, would he agree that the quantification of the poverty line today of 329 rupees in the rural areas per adult is a fraud on the poor people of this country because the entire Government's policy of providing benefits to the poor is linked to this. And if he agrees that 329 rupees in a growing economy is a fraud, what is the Prime Minister doing to change it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, the Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Growth rate in the country

†*245. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate in the country is expected to remain between 8 per cent and 7 per cent in the financial year 2008-09;

(b) if not, the estimated rate;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the annual growth rate in the foodgrain and industrial manufacturing sector is expected to remain lower than the average growth rate;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the increase in average growth rate depends on the increase in service sector, which in turn depends on international powers; and

(f) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) As per the estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the growth rate of the economy, measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product at factor cost, was 7.8 per cent in the first half (April-September) of the financial year 2008-09 over the corresponding period of the previous year. Projections of growth for the full year 2008-09 vary considerably because of uncertainty about the depth and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

duration of the recession in industrial countries. The Reserve Bank of India has examined forecast of the select macroeconomic indicators by Professional Forecasters and on this basis has indicated in October 2008 that the Real GDP growth rate for 2008-09 is expected to be 7.7 per cent. The overall growth rate could be lower than that but is unlikely to go below 7 per cent.

(c) and (d) As per Central Statistical Organisation estimates, the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors and industry sector was 2.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent respectively in the first half (April-September) of the financial year 2008-09 over the corresponding period of the previous year. Forecasts made by different agencies indicate that the growth rate of agriculture and allied sector, of which foodgrains is a component, and industrial sector of which the manufacturing sector is a component, is likely to remain lower than the average growth rate for the economy. The Median Forecast of the select Macroeconomic indicators by Professional Forecasters indicates that that the growth rate for agriculture and allied sectors for 2008-09 is expected to be 3.0 per cent, while that of industry sector is expected to be 7.0 per cent.

(e) and (f) The services sector comprising, trade, hotels, transport and communications, financing, insurance, real estate, business services, community, social and personal services, etc. accounts for more than half of the aggregate GDP. Hence, the growth rate of the economy does depend on the growth rate of services sector. Some of the sub-sectors within the services sector are non-tradable in nature and others are tradable. The growth of the latter does depend on the international economic situation.

Bio-medical norms

*246. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prosecutions in case of violation of bio-medical norms by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the country;

(b) whether his Ministry maintains the data of total number of violations and prosecutions in the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is aware that bio-medical waste in most of the clinics and hospitals is not being disposed of as per the norms; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Under Rule 7 of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the Union Territories are the prescribed authorities for enforcement of the provisions, of these Rules. The Central Government have delegated the necessary powers vested in it under the Environment